

INDIAN LAKE IS BEST KEPT SECRET

The following was taken from a '90 article by Kirk Swauger, Johnstown Tribune Democrat, updated 9-95

INDIAN LAKE -- The postcard pretty town nestled in the Somerset County countryside surrounding Indian Lake is a relaxing, recreational dream. It is magnetic: shadowed roads, modern-design homes and cottages, boating, water skiing, golfing and an at-home friendliness.

In the words of longtime resident, Lois Donaldson: "Its the best kept secret in western Pennsylvania."

Indian Lake, population 304, shatters the small-town stereotype. How many towns this size have not commercial businesses, no main street to speak of, two eighteen hole golf courses, a 736 acre lake and an airport?

Indian Lake Boro was incorporated in 1966, four years after the lake was created. It had 535 homes dotting the landscape, although only about 175 are occupied year-round. The others are seasonal, owned by part time residents

The town lines the shores of Indian Lake, a horseshoe-shaped, man-made body. The lake, rather than the narrow, winding Peninsula Drive, seems to be the Main Street of the community.

Scott Swank, president of the Indian Lake Marina, said there are about 700 boats on the lake. The lake offers a variety of pleasures: fishing, boating, water-skiing.

During a pontoon boat ride on the lake one morning last week, fishermen cast from docks and a sunbather read a book while her boat drifted.

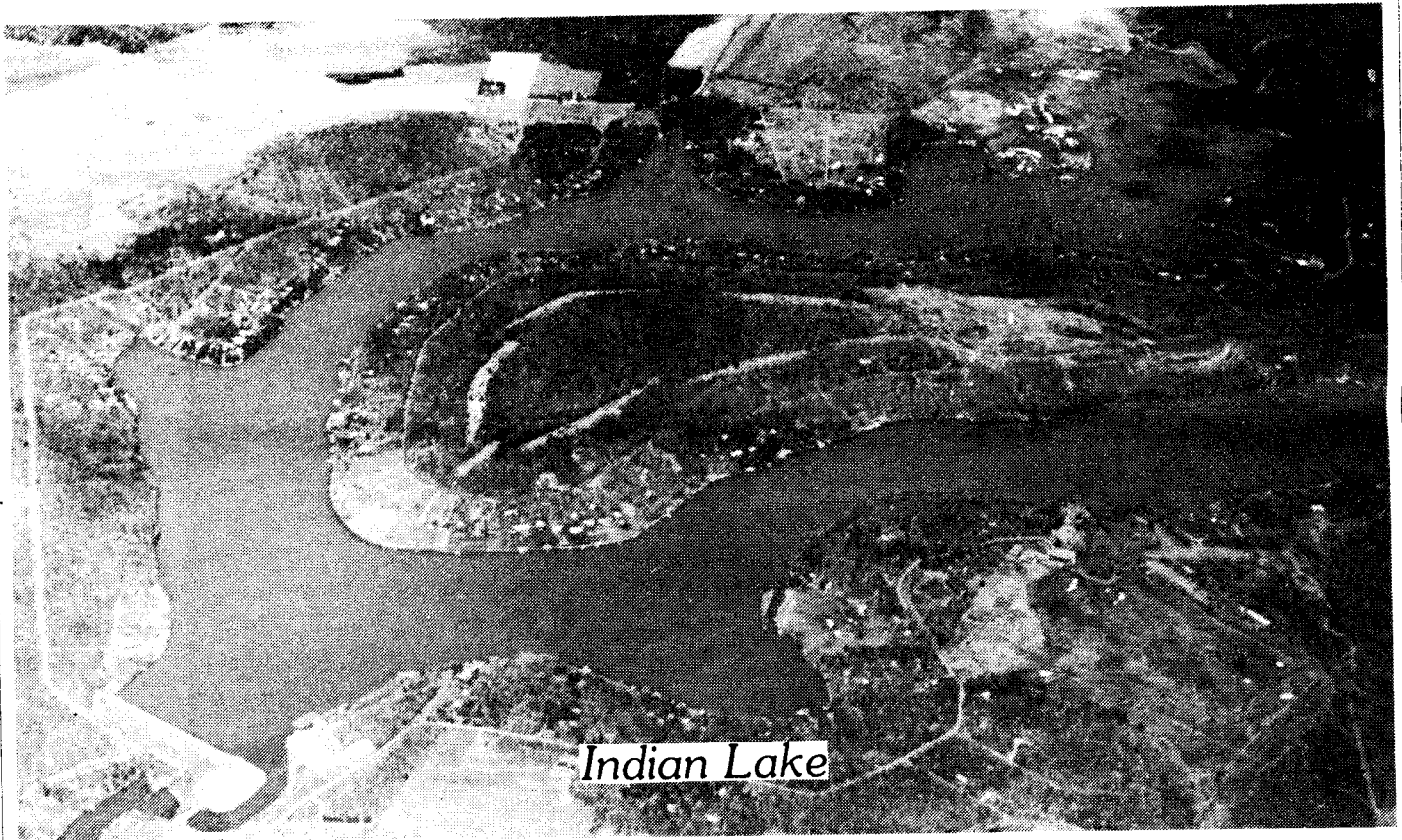
The Indian Lake Boro manager told of the beautiful July 4 celebration, when fireworks are set off from the breast of the dam, and 300 boats gather silently in the lake, their driving lights reflected in the dark waters. "It's one of the most beautiful displays I've ever seen."

"The lake's a meeting place," Swank said. "It brings everybody together. Everybody is in the same lane of traffic. It's a gateway, a place to let your hair down and enjoy yourself. Fun in the sun."

THE WAY IT IS AT INDIAN LAKE

BOATING: *In 1994 a total of 853 boat licenses were issued: 333 power boats, 199 pontoons, 51 jet skis, 28 sailboats, and 242 others (canoes, rafts, paddleboats etc.)*

How many boats are on the 750 acre lake at one time is a matter of speculation--there have been no official surveys. Educated guesses say about 150 at peak times (July 4th or Labor Day, between 2 and 5 pm.) Average number of boats on the lake during the summer at other times is 12 to 14, with high of perhaps 40 on hot July week-ends.



Indian Lake